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Search for genius in the nation hots up

THE search for the top Malaysian thinker is heating up. The I-Quest campaign organised by I-Bhd is seeking Malaysians who can conceptualise the most innovative and creative design for a product for the "Smart Home".

The campaign which started on March 1 is organised in the belief that in each Malaysian there lurks a genius the likes of Albert Einstein or Sir Isaac Newton.

There are two qualifying rounds to the contest and in each there will be six winners of i-computers.

Three awards await the winners - silver, gold and platinum.

The silver prize is a server and PC worth RM10,000 while the gold is an opportunity to see Bill Gates' "Smart Home" in Seattle and a trip to Silicon Valley.

The platinum award is a scholarship fund worth up to RM100,000 for further studies in the information and communication field.

The objectives of the contest are two fold: to encourage interest in science and technology and to create a truly Malaysian product, the company said yesterday.

To kick start the contest, I-Bhd has budgeted RM10 million of which RM1 million is for prizes, RM2 million for further R&D of the winning designs and RM7 million as a venture capital fund to commercialise the viable product.

The campaign is co-sponsored by leading global companies such as Intel, Microsoft and Epson as well as local print and media organisations, and is fully supported by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment.

The closing date is Aug 31.

The contest got a boost when Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad visited the I-Quest booth at the ministry's silver jubilee exhibition in Kuala Lumpur.

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